

**ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Technical Committee Meeting**

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Ulster County Community College
Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Mike Campbell*	Village of Saugerties
	Terry Dungan	Village of New Paltz
	Nancy Hammond*	Town of Lloyd
	Greg Helsmoortel ⁺	Town of Saugerties
	Toni Hokanson*	Town of New Paltz
	Cindy Lanzetta	Town of Marlborough
	Nadine Lemmon*	Town of Gardiner
	Vin Martello	Town of Marbletown
	Rich Peters**	NYS DOT Region 8
	Miles Putman*	Village of Saugerties
	Cynthia Ruiz**	UC Area Transit
	Clyde Russell	Town of Hurley
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety
	Phil Serafino	New York State Thruway Authority
	John Valk, Jr.	Town of Shawangunk
	Bill Tobin	UCTC
	Sweta Basnet	UCTC

Others

Present:	Linda Cook	Town of Hurley
	Lou Frangella	CSX Transportation
	Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken

⁺Permanent Voting Member

^{*}Current Voting Member or Proxy (Until June 4, 2009)

^{**}Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

[^]Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tobin at 9.10 AM.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments received.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

FFY 2008-2012 TIP Amendment (Proposed UCAT Transit Amendments)

Mr. Tobin stated that there are two proposed TIP amendments for UCAT in the agenda packet. Mr. Tobin added that the two amendments require the approval from the Technical Committee.

Mr. Tobin stated that the first amendment is for purchase of additional UCAT buses in the amount of \$150,000. Mr. Tobin added that the purchase needs to be made because the UCAT buses did not pass the state inspection. Mr. Tobin added that UCAT is not using new money for the purchase but wants to use some of the 5307 funds set aside from the last couple of years. Mr. Tobin added that the new buses will service the TMA area and provide connecting service to Orange County. Mr. Martello asked what will happen to the existing buses and if they are unusable? Mr. Peters stated that there is market for used buses. Mr. Martello asked if the issue of failing the state inspection can be mitigated. Mr. Tobin said he would contact UCAT and get an answer for this question.

Mr. Tobin asked for the approval of the TIP amendment for additional purchase of UCAT buses. Amendment approved by the Technical Committee. (00:02:48)

Mr. Tobin stated that the second TIP amendment proposed by UCAT is to finish the second floor space of the UCAT center. Mr. Tobin added that there is about 3,000-4,000 sq. feet of unfinished space on the second floor of the UCAT transit center that went unfinished upon the completion of the facility because of insufficient funds. Mr. Tobin added that this amendment will provide the needed funding to finish the UCAT space using funds set aside from the previous 5307 allocations. Mr. Tobin added that this action requires Technical Committee approval. Mr. Schaller asked if the money was coming from the highway department fund. Mr. Tobin stated that the money utilizes FTA 5307 funds \$160,000 and the State provides a 10% match and the County provides a 10% match. Mr. Tobin added that the agenda packet includes an attached narrative description of what will be done with the facility and a cost estimate performed by an engineering firm.

Mr. Tobin asked for the approval of the TIP amendment to finish the second floor of the UCAT center. Amendment approved by the Technical Committee. (00:04:50)

SFY 2008-2009 UPWP Update (Proposed Work Program Additions)

Mr. Tobin stated that there are 3 additional planning projects being proposed in the SFY 2008-2009 UPWP. Mr. Tobin stated that the UPWP document will be sent for printing contingent upon the approval by the Technical Committee. Mr. Tobin stated that the UPWP will be mailed in the agenda packet for the March 19th Policy Committee Meeting. (00:05:43)

Mr. Tobin stated the first addition to the UPWP is to include the towns of Shawangunk, Plattekill and Marlborough in the Stewart Airport area/Northern Orange County transportation and land use study. Mr. Tobin stated that the scope of work is being developed by OCTC. Mr. Tobin added that the OCTC will consider including the 3 towns. Ulster County may be asked to contribute to the study a yet-to-be determined amount of Planning Funds. Mr. Tobin asked the Committee if they there is interest in bringing the study area boundary into Ulster County and what amount are they willing to pay? (silence) Mr. Tobin stated that the Stewart Airport has been recently purchased by the Port Authority and is projected to grow in the number of passengers its serves. Mr. Tobin added that it is unclear what the impact of the airport growth will have on Orange County and southern Ulster County. Mr. Peters stated that the study will cost about \$750,000 to a million dollars. Mr. Tobin stated that Ulster County may have to contribute up to \$100,000 to include the towns of Shawangunk, Plattekill and Marlborough. Mr. Martello suggested extending the study further north to New Paltz. Mr. Peters stated

that it will increase the cost significantly and Orange County might not agree to it. Mr. Schaller suggested studying just the corridor. Mr. Tobin stated that land use will have to be looked into and its related impacts to corridors. Mr. Tobin stated that UCTC staff will be participating with study on the Ulster County side. Ms. Lanzetta asked about the status of the proposed 9W Corridor Study north of Newburgh in Orange County. Mr. Peters stated that the 9W Corridor study called "the Newburgh Area Study" has been rolled into "the Stewart Airport/Northern Orange County area transportation and land use study." Mr. Valk stated that there is a need for the study area boundary to be extended into Ulster County because a large amount of people from the three towns commute to Orange County daily. Ms. Hokanson proposed including the New Paltz Thruway Exit 18 in the Northern Orange County study area because more people will use the exit to get to the airport. Mr. Tobin suggested a stand alone Route 299 corridor transportation and land use study from New Paltz Exit 18 to US 9W might be a better solution so that a closer focus can be given to this issue. (00:16:10)

Ms. Ruiz arrived and apologized for being late. Ms. Ruiz stated that she would like to address the concerns about the TIP amendments proposed by UCAT. Ms. Ruiz stated that UCAT uses the buses as long as they pass the inspection. Ms. Ruiz added that the buses that don't pass the inspection are either given to the fire department or highway department who fix them up and use them. (00:21:45)

Ms. Ruiz stated that about \$50,000 has been available as JARC grant since 2004-2005 that UCAT wasn't going to be able to use. Mr. Tobin added that JARC grant requires 50% local match. Ms. Ruiz added that DSS got a grant that can match the JARC 100%. Ms. Ruiz stated that the JARC grant can be matched with Community Solution for Transportation (CST) which is a DSS (Department of Social Services) grant. Ms. Ruiz stated that UCAT would like to use the JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) grant. Ms. Ruiz stated that the project might have been on the TIP but dropped off. Ms. Ruiz stated that she would like to request this JARC project to be added to the TIP. Ms. Ruiz stated that this grant will be used to hire a mobility manager at DSS who will help people with information about public transportation and will travel and guide people using buses.

Mr. Tobin asked for the approval of the UCAT's TIP amendment to add funding in the amount of \$50,000 for the JARC project Ms. Ruiz described above. The Amendment was approved by the Technical Committee. (00:24:40)

Going back to the Stewart Airport area transportation and land use study, Mr. Tobin stated that the Committee doesn't have to commit to a decision today about how much they are willing to pay for the study.

Mr. Tobin asked for the approval of the UPWP amendment to include the three Southern Ulster towns in the Stewart Airport study. The Technical Committee agreed. (00:25:30)

Mr. Tobin stated that the second proposed addition to the SFY 2008-2009 UPWP is setting aside a yet-to-be determined amount of planning fund to address the unforeseen expenditure in the Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location and Conceptual Design Analysis. Mr. Tobin added that the consultant, Wendell Duchscherer and Associates of Buffalo, NY, is in the process of wrapping up the project. Mr. Tobin stated that there has been a budget overrun in terms of meetings and additional rendering of some of the sites being considered. Mr. Tobin stated that the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) has requested a scaled down revision of the existing site that was not part of the original

scope of work. Ms. Ruiz stated that a further look at the existing site was prompted by public concern over the scale of the project and cost. Mr. Tobin stated that the contract with Wendel Duchscherer may have to be amended for the second time to do some more work to satisfy the needs of the project. Mr. Tobin added that the additional cost is estimated to be about \$11,000. Mr. Martello asked if the City of Kingston has agreed to it. Ms. Lanzetta suggested making the amendment contingent upon a letter from the City of Kingston to support the study and implement its outcome. Mr. Campbell suggested a second contingency that there will be no further amendments and a final report be delivered after this second amendment. Mr. Peters suggested that it is better to spend money now and resolve problems than to address when at the design and construction phases.

Mr. Tobin asked for the approval of the amendment to allocate about \$11,000 in the SFY 2008-2009 UPWP for extension of the Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location project contract, contingent upon letter of support from the City of Kingston. The Technical Committee approved the work program task proposed. (00:42:57)

Mr. Tobin stated that the third proposed addition to the SFY 2008-2009 UPWP is concerning Town of Gardiner's request for UCTC assistance in performing transportation and land use study for the Gardiner hamlet area. A work program task was added to include the acquisition of a consulting firm(s) to perform transportation engineering and planning tasks on as needed basis. Mr. Tobin proposed hiring a consultant that can do corridor, sub area and intersection studies. It is also envisioned this same consultant(s) will provide public out reach and public transit planning assistance. The Technical Committee approved the work program task presented.

Mr. Tobin stated that the work program budget will reflect a set aside amount of \$250,000 for consulting studies relating to Stewart Airport/Northern Orange County study, on call transportation engineering services, such as for the Hamlet of Gardiner study, transit planning, and contingencies. (00:47:10)

TIP Update Informational Seminar

Mr. Tobin stated that today's overall agenda is to talk about the TIP update process. Mr. Tobin stated that Mr. Peters will talk about the financial program. Mr. Tobin stated that the seminar is structured into four categories: Over view of TIP update process; Region 8 Financial Program; Federal Aid Process; and the TIP maintenance and management process. (00:50:18)

Over View of the TIP Update Process

Mr. Tobin talked about TIP project application, project selection process, role of the UCTC and TIP subcommittee, TIP update schedule, TMA, Federal requirements, and public involvement requirements. Mr. Tobin stated that the presentation will be available online on the UCTC website. Ms. Nolan mentioned that the smaller communities may have problem providing the 20% local match required for the project. Mr. Peters stated that depending on the project the 20% could be broken down into 15% State and 5% local match. Mr. Martello asked if a consultant is required for the TIP application process. Mr. Tobin stated that the TIP application is designed to be easy to fill out and hopefully there is no need to hire a consultant. But some municipalities do hire consultants to fill out TIP applications. Ms. Hokanson remarked that the consultant might not be very familiar with the local issues to write the grant application. (01:22:20)

Overview of the NYSDOT Region 8 Financial Program

Mr. Peters talked about the Statewide and Region 8 Federal and State funding resource type, methodology for MPO Federal aid allocations and funding trends. (02:52:16)

Overview of the Federal Aid Process

Mr. Peters talked about the steps to implement a federally funded local project, initial project proposal (IPP), the role of the region 8 local projects unit, and how the Federal aid is obligated. Mr. Tobin asked if the municipality should fill out the initial project proposal (IPP) if they submit the TIP application through UCTC. Mr. Peters stated that the TIP application used to function as IPP in the past. Mr. Peters added that the municipality has to fill out the IPP even after submitting the TIP application. (03:34:52)

TIP Maintenance and Management

Mr. Tobin talked about how the TIP is managed, maintained, and amended. (03:50:20)

WRAP UP/QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM